

SMALL LOT IS DOWN TO SPLIT

Arrivals With Trips from Off
Shore Again Fail to
Materialize.

The small lot of fish came down from Boston to split, sch. Lillian having 20,000 pounds. This was the only vessel arrival here since yesterday. The gill netters for the most part were in port yesterday, only two being able to lift on account of the high wind outside.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Sch. Lillian, via Boston, 20,000 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Sawyer, gill netting, 3500 lbs. fresh fish.
Str. Robert and Edwin, gill netting, 500 lbs. fresh fish.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Bohemia, salt trawl banking.
Sch. Blanche, salt trawl banking.
Sch. Georgia, halibuting.
Sch. Fannie E. Prescott, halibuting.

TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

Salt Fish.

Handline Georges codfish, large, \$5 per cwt.; medium, \$4.25; snappers, 3.
Georges halibut codfish, large, \$5; medium, \$4.25.
Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$4.25; medium, \$3.75; snappers, \$3.
Cusk, large, \$2.50; medium, \$1.75; snappers, \$1.50.
Hake, \$1.50.
Haddock, \$1.75.
Pollock, \$1.50.
Newfoundland herring, \$3.25 per bbl. for salt bulk, \$4.25 per bbl. for pickled.

Fresh Fish.

Splitting prices:
Haddock, \$1.10 per cwt.
Western cod, large, \$2.25; medium, \$1.50; snappers, 75c.
Eastern cod, large, \$2; medium, \$1.50; snappers, 75c.
All codfish, not gilled, 10c per 100 pounds less than above.
Hake, \$1.25.
Cusk, large, \$1.75; medium, \$1.15; snappers, 50c.
Pollock, round, 80c; dressed, 90c.
Fresh halibut 121-2c for white and 14 cents for grays.

Newfoundland frozen herring, 3c per

LYLE LOSES IN HOPELESS FIGHT

"Skiddoo" District Representative Fought Hard to Get His Lobster License Bill Before House But Was Un- successful.

State House, Boston, March 17.—

Despite the efforts of Representative James M. Lyle, in the House this morning to have it substituted for the adverse report of the committee on fish and game that body declined to give the bill to require the licensing of lobster fishermen a standing. While the voice was apparently in opposition Mr. Lyle doubted the announcement of that fact by the speaker and asked for a rising vote. This showed 33 in favor of substitution and 49 against. Further doubting the vote Mr. Lyle asked for a call of the ayes and nays of the members. To obtain this, however, it was necessary to get 30 members to vote in favor of the roll call and only 20 responded so that the roll call was not ordered.

When the matter was reached Mr. Lyle was the first speaker and went into a long explanation of the organization of the lobstermen along the coast which, he said, included practically all of these fishermen from Cape Ann to Cohasset and in a year or so would include all of the lobstermen anywhere on the coast line of Massachusetts. These lobstermen, he claimed, were led to take this course of asking for protective legislation because they had seen their own business disappear very rapidly through the aviciousness of some of their associates. He instanced a case of one fisherman who, a few years ago obtained 300 lobsters but who admitted that he did not make a practice of throwing overboard the "shorts". This high catch dwindled down in the course of a few years to 116 when he realized what was happening to the industry and adopted a policy of throwing back into the sea the "shorts" and egg bearing lobsters. This season he caught 260 lobsters and had become convinced that the throwing back policy was far the better in the long run. It was awful discouraging, this man admitted to Mr. Lyle, to pull 100 pots taking out 40 lobsters and finding that he was morally bound to throw half of them back into the sea.

Some Men Haul Pots of Others.

Mr. Lyle admitted that all of the lobstermen were not honest and law abiding, and that is why this proposed law is needed to protect those who are honest.

Some men haul pots belonging to others, but this licensing proposition will make very much easier the matter of law enforcement, said Mr. Lyle. It has a penalty which is the taking away of a license for a year and this loss of an opportunity to fish will prevent infringements by certain lobstermen some of whom Mr. Lyle called practically pirates.

In his district, Mr. Lyle said, there are 75 lobstermen and he doubted if any other member of the House had as many among his constituents. "I would not advocate the passage of anything against the interests of these lobstermen for I expect to go back there and live 50 years or more or as long as the Lord will let me remain on the earth," said Mr. Lyle.

The Opposition Came Back Strong.

The first speaker in opposition was Representative Benjamin B. Collins of Edgartown, who made the point that as Mr. Lyle admitted that the present law is not enforced there is no sense in putting more laws on the statute books. He told the House that he was a member 15 years ago and that practically the same measure was before the Legislature at that time and has been here periodically since. "In fact it is one of the 'hardy annuals' and is unnecessary legislation. It does not add one iota to the protection to the lobstermen. It calls for the appointment of four more deputies saddling considerable expense on the state and these four men are expected to cover 250 miles of coast line," said Mr. Collins.

Representative William O. Souther, Jr., of Cohasset denied that the lobstermen wanted this bill. He claimed that there were 150 lobstermen at the hearing and when those in favor were asked to stand only seven out of this number arose. "The bill would bar any men not a citizen from fishing as it specifically says that licenses shall be granted to citizens only." There were 80 lobstermen in his district and not one of them wants this bill. "It does not go into effect until next November and the remaining two months of the year are not fishing months. There is no harm in letting this thing lay over another year until the lobstermen themselves can agree on a suitable bill. There has been circulated among the members a statement in regard to lobster fishing which I understand was prepared by a motorman," said Mr. Souther.

Lyle Couldn't Get the Floor.

At this point Mr. Lyle attempted to rise to object but could not obtain

the floor. Continuing Mr. Souther said that the returns of the fish and game commission showed that only three men in the Gloucester member's district made returns this year although the claim was made that there are 75 lobstermen there.

Mr. Lyle in reply said that the statement alluded to by the last speaker was prepared by a professor of the Institute of Technology and not by a motorman. "There were only 70 lobstermen at the hearing and not 150," said Mr. Lyle. "The meeting was packed by opposing lobstermen. The bill in its present form is objectionable but it could be amended if substituted." He would change the word 'citizen' to 'resident' for he agreed there were many in the business in his section that were not citizens of the United States and he would be the last man to deprive them of the means of earning their living.

The bill also provides that licenses may be granted and he would wish to change the word 'may' to 'shall'.

Representative Souther again referred to the two months remaining in the present year if the bill was substituted and passed and suggested again that the latter be put over a year until the legislature could have a measure that was a fishermen's bill and not a politician's bill.

Representative Jerome S. Smith of Provincetown argued that the proposed measure did not protect the lobster and that it was not a fair or just bill. Furthermore lobstermen along the South Shore, he claimed, did not take short lobsters but released them as fast as they were caught.

In reply to this Mr. Lyle read figures from the fish and game commissioners report showing that a large percentage of convictions for catching short lobsters were of fishermen along the South Shore.

In reply to this Mr. Smith explained that his use of the South Shore only included the coast line of Barnstable county with which he was familiar, while the Gloucester man claimed that it included everything south of Boston.

This ended the debate and the vote resulted as announced.

LUNENBURGERS OFF FOR BANKS

The following Lunenburg fishing schooners have baited and sailed:

Donald L. Silver, Silver; Lottie A. Silver, Silver; Lucile B. Creaser, Creaser; R. L. Borden, Himmelman. On Monday, the 15th inst.: F. M. Toso, Corkum; L. M. C. Hart, Corkum; Annie L. Spindler, Spindler; Uda A. Saunders, Spindler; Lauretta Frances, Spindler; Ada Westhaver, Mason; W. C. MacKay, Diehl; Allison H. Maxner, Maxner; Anita, Creaser; Haska, Ritcey. The Associate, Backman; Lillian Corkum, Corkum; Marion A. Silver, Silver; and Hazel L. Ritcey, Ritcey sailed Tuesday.

TYPHOID IN LYNN CLAMS.

So Claims Report Made by Board of Health.

Clams dug in Lynn harbor at low tide contained typhoid germs, according to a report made to the Lynn board of health by Hamlin P. Bennett, the city chemist.

The examination was made when it became evident that the clams were in some way responsible for the unusual number of typhoid cases reported for this season. Of the 17 fever patients within the last three months, five are said to have been made ill by eating clams dug from the harbor.

The chemist also says that he found germs in the water near where the clams were dug, and that the mud in which they lived was contaminated.

N. F. Fish Trade.

Says the St. John's, N. F. Trade Review:

Nothing new to report since last issue, and the trade has been reduced to transactions between city fish exporters and city retail grocers. Though small in individual order, this trade amounts to something in the aggregate, because, as a matter of fact, we are becoming greater fish eaters every day. This is not because fish is much cheaper than meat, but because we have a greater appreciation of fish than we used to have. Besides, the salt fish sold, the trade in fresh fish of all kinds (when we can get it) is brisk, and boxed fish, bloaters, etc., put up by local men, are also having an extensive sale.

NEW YORK ON SALT MACKEREL

Domestic mackerel may cease to be the lame duck department on the next catch, says the Fishing Gazette. Of course present stocks are scarce.

The startling information is at hand that there is a pronounced move now on to substitute domestic mackerel for the imported variety when the hand of Mars makes more serious inroads into the foreign mackerel market and cripples its natural production. There is a scarcity of barrels at Gloucester. Tens of thousands of barrels are wanted. There's a reason.

Said one of New York's veteran authorities last Wednesday:

"You know there is practically no domestic mackerel. On the last catch vessels got but little mackerel from our shores. There may be some bays and Cape Shore mackerel available.

"We'll soon have new mackerel now, you know. I don't know whether any vessels have started out for them yet or not, but it is time they were out.

"You can rest assured, however, that there is practically no supply of domestic mackerel on the market at present, and as there were few bays and Cape Shore mackerel caught I doubt very much whether there are many available stocks of either variety."

"We have made money on mackerel, and we are going to make some more," said New York's largest handler of Norway mackerel a few days ago. "I know some people are kicking. They say there is no money in mackerel, but

there is. I've put a crimp in prices, as I told you I would." I'm bidding for large lots of mackerel. I'll get them, too."

Several other large handlers of Norway mackerel agreed with the new schedule of price quotations as they now appear in the price tables of this issue of The Fishing Gazette.

Said a New York factor last Tuesday:

"The mackerel market is dull, and considering the Lenten season, the demand is exceptionally poor, and trade is buying only from hand to mouth, and is exceptionally particular in regard to quality."

The imports into the port of New York for the week ending February 27, 1915, included \$20,187 worth of fish.

Says the Boston Fish Bureau. "Salt mackerel are in moderate demand. Receipts in this city the past week have included 21 bbls. from Canada, 312 bbls. from Ireland and 165 from Norway. No curing operations are reported at any point."

Mch. 19

ALL IN FOR GOOD MONEY TODAY

Eight of the Off Shore Fleet at New Pier With Paying Trips.

The new pier claimed all the fishing arrivals this morning, eight fares being in for market.

The largest trips were those of schs. A. Piatt Andrew, Capt. Wallace Bruce, 46,000 pounds; Conqueror, Capt. Robertson Giffin, 68,000 pounds; Commonwealth, Capt. Frank Watts, 50,000 pounds; Morning Star, Capt. Harry Ross, 45,000 pounds.

Quotations were \$3.70 to \$4.50 a hundred pounds for haddock, \$5 for large and \$3 for market cod, \$3 to \$6 for hake, \$2.50 for pollock, \$1.75 for cusk, and 22 cents and 23 cents a pound for fresh halibut.

Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

ARRIVALS AT BOSTON FISH PIER.

Sch. Gov. Foss, 20,000 haddock, 6000 cod, 400 halibut.

Str. Surf, 37,000 haddock, 16,000 cod.

Str. Wave, 32,000 haddock, 3000 cod.

Sch. A. Piatt Andrew, 28,000 haddock, 7500 cod, 4000 hake, 700 cusk.

Sch. Conqueror, 34,000 haddock, 17,000 cod, 5000 hake, 12,000 cusk.

Sch. Mary F. Sears, 16,000 haddock, 5000 cod, 4000 cusk, 3000 pollock.

Sch. Commonwealth, 32,000 haddock, 4500 cod, 5000 hake, 6500 cusk.

Sch. Morning Star, 35,000 haddock, 6600 cod, 2000 cusk, 1000 pollock.

Haddock, \$3.70 to \$4.50 per cwt.; large cod, \$5; market cod, \$3; hake, \$3 to \$6; pollock, \$2.50; cusk, \$1.75; halibut, 23 cents and 22 cents per lb.

Claims the Retailer of Fish Doesn't Get All the Profit

The Canadian Fisherman says:

It is a peculiar fact that persons engaged in different branches of a particular industry know very little about each other. The farmer who knows the grain knows nothing of the work of the miller who grinds it into flour and of the man who sells the flour to the

consumer. An apple grower sells apples to a dealer at any one dollar a barrel. (He picks up a paper and notices that a fruit merchant is selling his apples at four dollars. Mr. Apple Grower feels that he has been bunced out of at least a dollar, and considers that he got the raw end of the

deal, while some other fellow got the profit.

We all know that the fisherman deserves more than what he gets. He has to risk his life and undergo all kinds of hardships in the business of catching fish, but he is making a mistake when he supposes the distributor and retailer are grabbing all the profit. If they could get more than 8 cents a pound for their fish, they would do so, but the fish eating public absolutely refuses to pay more. It is the public who set the prices—not the retailer. The housewife who comes into a store to buy fresh fish doesn't care a row of pins for the fisherman, and to tell her that rough weather had caused a scarcity of fish and a rise in price makes her think that it is a scheme on the part of the storekeeper to get more profit. The result is she buys something else.

Fish is not a staple like meat and eggs. People will buy meat and eggs at almost any price, but they will not buy fish. The retailer simply has to keep his fish prices low enough to tempt the public to purchase. Fish cannot be kept indefinitely. It must be sold within a certain time or it will be worthless. Cold storage helps the distributor and the retailer out to a certain extent but cold storages cost money to run and in the fish business cold storage is absolutely necessary to maintain a steady supply during bad weather and to take care of an overstock of fish, for which there is no market.

Coming back to the fisherman's price of 2 cents and the retailer's price of 8 cents, let us analyse what amount of labor is put upon the fish by the hands it passes through. The fisherman pays for his bait and gear and his share in boat or vessel. He dresses the fish and receives 2 cents per pound for it on the dock of the distributor.

The distributor has to keep up a wharf and fish sheds; he has to pay for labor in packing the fish for shipment, also for ice, boxes and barrels and cartage to the shipping point. In addition he has to maintain a sales office or a commission agency to sell the fish to the retailer. That means expenses for office rent, the employment of a traveller to get orders and numerous other small items which are absolutely necessary to do business. The distributor sells the fish for 4 cents a pound to the retailer.

The retailer probably pay express charge of 1 1-2 cents a pound which

brings the cost of the fish to him 5 1-2 cents. He sells at 8 cents to the public, making an apparent clear profit of 2 1-2 cents a pound. It looks that way, but what is he? In the cities, store rents are high, and taxes for heat and light pretty heavy. The retailer also has to keep delivery wagons, and in an article which is largely delivered in fact but a very small proportion of fish orders are carried away by purchasers. The delivery is an expensive item. Stabling and horse is very dear but no fish merchant do business without a horse and on. If fish were in great demand a team kept busy all day delivering orders the expenses would not be great, but where fish is only used fast days and but little at other times it comes high. As an instance of expense of a delivery a prominent

taller relates the following:

"A lady living in the North End of this city telephones down for five pounds of fresh haddock to be delivered that day. I had to send my own out to her place to deliver that haddock and the driver was nearly two hours getting out there and back. You hired a team to take your fish there and back it would have cost two or three dollars. Where does the profit come in? If people would get their fish, instead of making it to deliver it, or the demand doubled, I could sell it cheaper and make more profit."

We have not enumerated every item in what has been written above, but what we have pointed out will show that there is no fancy profits made in the fish business by any of the three sections who handle it. The public, in the case of fish, typically dictates the price, and such time as there is a steady and very demand no person is going to make a rapid fortune out of a fish business.

WAS HARD ON HERRING

A London correspondent engaged in the fishing industry in the North of Scotland gives some information of the disastrous effects of the leaving out of account difficulties regard to remittances due from the war, fish curers had been in Germany of a total value of £450,000. In addition, they left on their hands at home barrels, for which, owing to the closing of the Baltic, no market could be found. Part of this quantity had been sold to American and Norwegian buyers, but at sacrificing prices, 90,000 barrels have been shipped to Russia via Archangel, where they still remain, owing to the present goods getting the preference the only railway available for export. Even now the fish curers in stock 80,000 barrels, which have become worthless. —Halifax